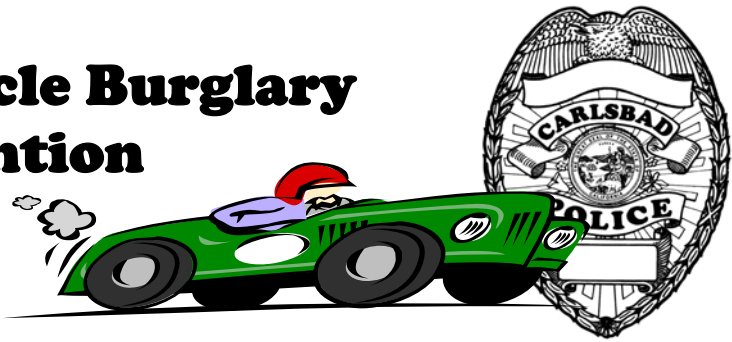


# Vehicle Burglary And Theft Prevention

Presented by Carlsbad Police  
Department's Crime Prevention Unit



**Lock it!** Always lock your vehicle and take the keys, no matter where you are parking. Even in your driveway and garage. Lock your trunk and close all the windows, even the smallest opening can provide access. Lock your vehicle at quick stops like the gas station, coffee house or ATM machine.

**Park carefully!** The best place for your vehicle is in the garage if you have one. If not, park your vehicle where you can see it from a window, close to your house and under a light. Use attended parking lots when possible as a vehicle is 5 times more likely to be stolen from an unattended lot. Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring. Park your car in well-lighted areas with people around.

**Clean it out completely!** Do not leave anything in your vehicle. Despite the value, the damage a thief does to break into your vehicle is usually more costly than the item being stolen. We carry many valuable electronics in our vehicles. Clear out iPods, GPS's, Laptops and cell phones as well as purses, wallets and garage door openers. If you want an aftermarket stereo in your vehicle, try a pullout model or one with an anti-theft device. Remove business items. Be cautious when storing items in the trunk as someone could be watching you. The vehicle code requires you to keep your vehicle registration in your car but it does not require you to keep it in the glove box. Put it in an unusual place. Your vehicle registration and your garage door opener are a key to your home!

**Add an anti-theft device!** Consider your risk and then consider an anti-theft device. First, try a visual deterrent using something that is visible through the window to deter a thief before he damages your car. Next, try a "kill switch" which is a hidden switch that breaks a circuit and prevents the car from being driven away.

**Mark it!** Use an engraver to etch your California Driver's License Number on stereos and other valuable items. Next, record your vehicle identification number and keep it in a safe place. Also, engrave your vehicle identification number on different vehicle parts to prevent theft. Record the serial numbers of all the electronics you carry and store it in a safe place.

**Report activity!** Join the Neighborhood Watch Program and work with your neighbors to rid your neighborhood of crime. Be alert to suspicious activity like someone loitering in your neighborhood, especially if you see them looking into vehicle windows. Be alert to the sounds you hear. Most vehicle burglars steal things by breaking a car window. Report suspicious activity 24 hours a day by calling 760-931-2197, while the activity is taking place.

For more crime prevention information visit the City of Carlsbad's Website at [www.carlsbadca.gov/police](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/police) and check out the crime prevention section.